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LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 9 May 1995 from Mr. Hamid Yousif Hamadi, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the influx of Turkish refugees into Iraqi territory.

I should be grateful if you would have my letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 9 May 1995 from the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

As you know, the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq is still continuing, and, since the entry of Turkish forces into Iraqi territory on 20 March 1995, the international Organization has not made any move, in spite of widespread international condemnation of this invasion.

There can be no doubt that the Turkish invasion constitutes a grave breach of the Charter of the United Nations. The subjection of innocent Iraqi citizens to slaughter and plunder, resulting in an influx of large numbers of Turkish citizens seeking refuge in Iraqi territory, constitutes a gross violation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and human rights principles.

These grave violations of the most basic rules of international law should have prompted the United Nations to assume its responsibilities under the Charter and to adopt appropriate resolutions and measures to put an end to them.

For the aforementioned reasons, the silence of the United Nations illustrates, once again, its policy of double standards, not only in the treatment of international political issues but also in the treatment of humanitarian questions. This is a grave matter, because this policy deprives the United Nations of its credibility and its ability to defend the principles of the Charter, international humanitarian law and human rights in a just, equitable and impartial way.

You are aware of the circumstances that caused many Iraqi citizens to flee across the borders in 1991 for reasons unrelated to the will of the Iraqi Government. In spite of this, the United Nations adopted resolutions and took measures, on the pretext of defending human rights, with the aim of blackening the international reputation of Iraq and in order to accommodate a number of major Powers that were trying to exploit human rights principles to realize their evil political aims against Iraq and to threaten its sovereignty, independence and national unity. The recklessness of these rapacious States brought them to such an advanced degree of hypocrisy that they considered the flight of a few thousand Iraqi Kurds into Turkish territory a matter threatening world peace and security. However, those same hypocritical States remain silent regarding the tragedy of thousands of Turkish Kurds who have been forced to leave their homes and seek refuge in Iraq as a means of escaping repression by the Turkish forces, and their flight is not regarded as a threat to security and stability in the region or the world.

Those hypocritical Governments have posed, with regard to the United Nations and the Security Council, the very real question of whether the Organization has become a tool in the hands of those hypocritical Governments.

I should be grateful if you would have my letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hamid Yousif HAMADI
Acting Minister for Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Iraq